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| (21) International Application Number: PCT/SE93/00960 (22) International Filing Date: 11 November 1993 (11.11.93) (30) Priority data: 9203435-4 11 November 1992 (11.11.92) SE (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: MOSBACH, Klaus [SE/SE]; Lackalänga 31, S-244 94 Furulund (SE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only) : VLATAKIS, Georg [GR/GR]; Foundation for Research & Technology, Inst. of Molecular Biology and Biotech., GR-711 70 Herakli- on, Kreta (GR). ANDERSON, Lars, I. [SE/SE]; Tilläm- pad Biokemi, P.O. Box 124, S-221 00 Lund (SE). MÜLL- ER, Ralf [DE/DE]; Johnson & Johnson, Oststrasse 1, D-2000 Norderstedt (DE). | | (74) Agent: AWAPATENT AB; P.O. Box 5117, S-200 71 Mal- mö (SE). (81) Designated States: AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, JP, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LU, LV, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SK, UA, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> |
| (54) Title: ARTIFICIAL ANTIBODIES, METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME AND USE THEREOF (57) Abstract <p>Artificial antibodies or antibody mimics are described. They consist of polymers that carry specific binding sites mimicking the properties of antibodies. There is also described a method for producing artificial antibodies, in which polymerisable monomers carrying functional groups and crosslinking monomers are polymerised in the presence of a print molecule and subsequently the print molecule is removed leaving specific binding sites complementary to the print molecules. There are also described methods for determination and isolation of organic molecules using the artificial antibodies as well as therapeutic and diagnostic methods using these antibodies.</p> | | |

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ARTIFICIAL ANTIBODIES, METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME AND
USE THEREOF

The present invention concerns artificial antibodies,
5 a method for producing the artificial antibodies, a method
for determination of an organic molecule in a fluid
sample, a method for separation or isolation of an organic
molecule and use of the latter methods in immunoassays as
well as a method of therapy or diagnostics.

10 Antibodies are used in several areas, such as thera-
py, immunoaffinity, purification and in particular in
immunoassays. As to the latter aspect the corresponding
antigens can either be small or large molecules.

Antibodies are normally produced by immunising ani-
15 mals with the corresponding antigen leading to polyclonal
antibodies, or by using fused cells (B cells) allowing the
obtained cell lines to produce monoclonal antibodies.

Recent efforts in obtaining other biologically deriv-
ed antibodies or at least antibody-like compounds involve
20 recombinant techniques applied to bacteria or plants.

Antibodies can be raised against most compounds; they
are versatile reagents employed in numerous applica-
tions¹⁻⁵, ranging from basic research to clinical analy-
sis. However, being bio-macromolecules they require care-
25 ful handling and their production is costly⁵.

A potentially useful alternative would be the produc-
tion of non-biologically derived antibody mimics or arti-
ficial antibodies, such as polymer structures that are
similar to biological antibodies in binding and recogni-
30 sing antigens.

The inherent advantages of such systems would be that
the need for animal sources is obliterated, and that anti-
body mimics can be obtained for cases where it is diffi-
cult or impossible to raise antibodies, as for immuno
35 suppressive agents, such as cyclosporin, certain structu-
res, such as macrolides or short peptides.

Furthermore, such non-biological systems could be made more stable, allowing repeated use, higher temperatures and easy sterilisation.

In addition the need for derivatisation of antigens for immunisation purposes is made unnecessary, thereby avoiding the often complicated chemistry and sometimes decreased recognition for the original target molecule (= antigen).

Since the development of the first radioimmunoassay¹, immunological techniques using labelled reactants have gained an extraordinary prominence in the field of medical research and in clinical diagnosis. In particular, the discovery of monoclonal antibodies² and their use in immunoassays has offered novel advantages and more possibilities. Despite the plethora of markers and different procedures^{3,4} that have been employed, all the immunological techniques exploit the remarkable affinity and specificity of antibodies. However, antibodies are labile biomolecules which require careful handling and storage. Their production is a time-consuming procedure⁵, including several laborious steps like conjugation of the hapten to a carrier protein, immunisation of animals and isolation of immunoglobulins.

Thus, there was a need for an immunoassay-like technique in which stable and easily prepared highly selective polymers, rather than antibodies are used.

The technique of molecular imprinting has attracted much attention in the last few years⁶⁻⁸. Recently, molecular imprinting has been developed to a stage of practical application in enantiomeric separations¹¹⁻¹⁵, in particular in the resolution of racemic drugs such as β -blockers¹⁶.

Furthermore, the technique has been applied to make synthetic enzymes^{9,10}.

The technique of molecular imprinting and its special form of non-covalent imprinting as developed by the inventors makes it possible to achieve the above objects.

Briefly, the technique involves polymerisation of functional monomers in the presence of a print molecule (see Scheme 1). Subsequent removal of the print molecule from the rigid polymer results in sites within the polymer that are complementary to and have an affinity for the original print molecule.

According to the invention there are provided artificial antibodies, which consist of polymers that carry specific binding sites mimicking the properties of antibodies.

There is also provided, according to another aspect of the invention, a method for producing artificial antibodies, in which polymerisable monomers carrying functional groups and crosslinking monomers are polymerised in the presence of a print molecule and subsequently the print molecule is removed leaving specific binding sites complementary to the print molecule.

The invention also provides for a method for determination of an organic molecule in a fluid sample. According to this method, a known amount of the organic molecule provided with a label is added to the sample, the sample is contacted with artificial antibodies having specific binding sites for the organic molecule, whereby the labelled and unlabelled organic molecules are competitively bound to the binding sites, and the labelled organic molecule is determined either unbound in the supernatant or bound by the polymer.

There is also provided a method for separation or isolation of an organic molecule from a fluid sample, in which the sample, labelled or not, is contacted with an excess of artificial antibodies consisting of a polymer having specific sites for the organic molecule, whereby the organic molecule is bound to the binding sites, and optionally the organic molecule is measured bound to the artificial antibodies or eluted from the antibodies.

The invention also provides for a method of therapy or diagnosis, in which artificial antibodies are administered to a mammal body, which artificial antibodies consist of a biocompatible polymer carrying specific binding sites mimicking the properties of antibodies towards an organic molecule.

In one embodiment of the invention, the polymers are prepared by non-covalent polymerisation.

The polymers constituting the artificial antibodies are preferably built up of polymerisable monomers carrying functional groups and crosslinking monomers. Preferably the polymerisable monomers carrying functional groups are chosen among negatively charged monomers such as methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, basic monomers such as vinylpyridine, vinylimidazole, hydrophobic monomers carrying alkyl chains, monomers allowing π - π -interactions, van der Waals forces.

In one embodiment of the invention, polymers are built up of methacrylic acid crosslinked by ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

If the artificial antibodies are to be used for administration to a mammal body the polymers must be biocompatible. Preferably they must be of the size not more than 5 μ m or the size of normal biological antibodies, most preferred 10-100 nm.

In preparation of artificial antibodies according to the invention, the polymer is ground to a particle size of normally $\sim 25 \mu$ m for use in so-called heterogeneous assays.

The fines, that is particles with a size of 10-100 or 1000 nm, resulting from the grinding, can be kept in solution or suspension and used for instance in so-called homogeneous immunoassays. Such assays are extremely sensitive and can be performed involving e.g. two different antibodies.

Another advantage with the fine particles is that they are more suitable for use in therapy or diagnostics.

Preferably the binding sites are specific for a compound chosen from the group consisting of drugs, metabolites, nucleotides, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, proteins, hormones, toxins, steroids, prostaglandins and leukotrienes.

In one embodiment the binding sites are specific for theophylline or diazepam.

Suitable labels for use in the methods according to the invention are radioligands, enzymes, biotin, steroids, fluorochromes, gold.

The methods according to the invention are preferably used in immunoassays, especially in radioimmunoassays.

The method of therapy or diagnosis according to the invention comprises several different modes of action. For example, it can be used to withdraw an undesired organic molecule from a mammal body, such as a toxin. In another embodiment the artificial antibodies assemble around a cancer cell to indicate the presence of such a cell. In a further embodiment the artificial antibodies are bringing a drug to specific targets, for instance cancer cells.

In one embodiment of treating a mammal body an extra corporal device containing the artificial antibodies is coupled to the body via a shunt in the bloodstream, and the bloodstream is passed through the device.

For the studies the inventors chose two chemically unrelated drugs, theophylline and diazepam, as print molecules. Theophylline, a commonly used drug in the prevention and treatment of asthma, apnea and obstructive lung diseases, has a narrow therapeutic index (56-112 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ serum) requiring careful monitoring of serum concentrations¹⁷. Diazepam (e.g. valium) is a member of the benzodiazepine group of drugs widely used as hypnotics, tranquilizers and muscle relaxants¹⁸. Benzodiazepines are one of the most commonly implicated substances in drug overdose situations and their detection in body fluids is very useful in clinical and forensic toxicology. Current methods for measuring theophylline and benzodiazepines are

based on high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)¹⁹⁻²¹ and on immunological techniques²²⁻²⁶.

The polymers were prepared using methacrylic acid (MAA) as the functional monomer and ethylene glycol dimethacrylate (EDMA) as the crosslinking monomer (Scheme 1). This is a well characterised polymer system that has been used for the preparation of molecular imprints against a number of compounds^{12-14,16}. The carboxylic acid function of MAA has been shown to form ionic interactions with amino groups¹² and hydrogen bonds with polar functionalities of the print molecule¹⁴. The inventors assume that hydrogen bonding is the predominant type of force operating during imprinting and subsequent recognition in the present system. Dipole-dipole and hydrophobic interactions may also contribute.

The solvent compositions giving optimal binding and selectivity were determined for each polymer (see Example 2 and Fig. 1 below). As a general guide^{14,27}: i) in a more apolar solvent the substrate binds more strongly to the polymer than in polar solvents, and ii) small amounts of acetic acid can be added to the solvent in order to suppress non-specific binding. The equilibrium dissociation constants (K_D) for binding of the drugs to the corresponding polymers were estimated by Scatchard plot analysis using radio-labelled ligands. In both cases, the Scatchard plots were nonlinear and fitted well with two K_D values, for high and low affinity binding sites. The inventors believe that, as in the case of polyclonal antibodies, the polymers contain a heterogeneous population of sites with different affinities for the print molecule. The K_D values for the high and low affinity binding sites, calculated with the LIGAND programme (Elsevier-Biosoft), were 3.46×10^{-7} M and 6.55×10^{-5} M (associated with a population of sites of $0.016 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$ and $1.28 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$, respectively) for theophylline and 3.76×10^{-8} M and 7.36×10^{-8} M ($0.0071 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$ and $0.51 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$) for diazepam.

Polymers prepared against theophylline or diazepam were used as antibody-substitutes in the construction of competitive binding for theophylline and diazepam determination in human serum. The method, which we name Molecularly Imprinted Sorbent Assay (MIA), relies on the inhibition of binding of radio-labelled ligand by the serum analyte. The amount of radioligand bound to the polymer is inversely related to the concentration of drugs present in the sample. Drug free serum samples spiked with known amounts of theophylline or diazepam were used for establishing the standard calibration curves. Prior to the actual assay, the drug was extracted from the serum by standard protocols used for HPLC-analysis¹⁹⁻²¹ (Fig. 1). The MIA for theophylline was linear over the range 14-224 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ which is satisfactory for therapeutic monitoring of the drug. The results for diazepam were linear over the range which is normally used in standard immunoassay techniques for benzodiazepines (0.44-28 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$).

The specificity of the method was tested by the determination of cross-reactivity of major metabolites and of drugs structurally related to theophylline or diazepam (Table 1).

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TABLE 1 Cross-reactivity of various xanthine and uric acid derivatives for binding of ^3H -theophylline (bronchodilator) and various benzodiazepines for binding of ^3H -diazepam (tranquilizer) to artificial antibodies (ArtAb's) and natural antibodies (Ab's).

| Theophylline antibodies | | | Diazepam antibodies | | |
|---|--------------------|-----|------------------------|--------------------|------|
| Competitive ligand | Cross-reaction (%) | | Competitive ligand | Cross-reaction (%) | |
| | ArtAb | Ab* | | ArtAb | Ab** |
| Theophylline (1,3-dimethyl-xanthine) | 100 | 100 | Diazepam (e.g. valium) | 100 | 100 |
| 3-Methylxantin | 7 | 2 | Alprazolam | 40 | 44 |
| Xanthine | <1 | <1 | Demethyldiazepam | 27 | 32 |
| Hypoxanthine | <1 | <1 | | | |
| 7-(β -Hydroxyethyl)-1,3-dimethylxanthine | <1 | <1 | Clonazepam | 9 | 5 |
| Caffeine (1,3,7-trimethylxanthine) | <1 | <1 | Lorazepam | 4 | 1 |
| Theobromine (3,7-dimethylxanthine) | <1 | <1 | Chlordiazepoxid | 2 | <1 |
| Uric acid | <1 | <1 | | | |
| 1-Methyluric acid | <1 | <1 | | | |
| 1,3-Dimethyluric acid | <1 | <1 | | | |

The ligands were added to drug free serum and assayed as described in Fig. 1. Cross-reactivities are expressed as the molar ratio of theophylline and diazepam, respectively, to ligand giving 50% inhibition of radioligand binding to polymer.

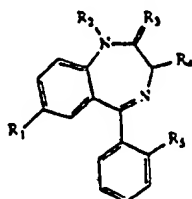
* Data from ref 22.



** Data from ref 24.

The MIA method for theophylline (1,3-dimethylxanthine) appears to be highly specific since from all the compounds tested only 3-methylxanthine showed some cross-reactivity.

In the case of the diazepam assay several other
5 benzodiazepines showed significant cross-reactivity. This was, however, expected because benzodiazepines are very similar in structure, as seen below:

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| | | R ₁ | R ₂ | R ₃ | R ₄ | R ₅ |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|---|---|----------------|----------------|
| 15 | Diazepam | Cl | Me | O | H | H |
| | Desmethyldiazepam | Cl | H | O | H | H |
| | Clonazepam | NO ₂ | H | O | H | Cl |
| 20 | Lorazepam | Cl | H | O | OH | Cl |
| | Alprazolam | Cl |  |  | H | H |

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and even antibodies have difficulty in distinguishing between them^{25,26} (Table 1).

The ability of the MIA method for accurate measurement of theophylline was evaluated by analysing 32 patient
30 serum samples. The sample were also analysed with the Enzyme-Multiplied Immunoassay Technique (EMIT)²⁸ and the comparison of the results obtained showed excellent correlation between the two methods (Fig. 1). Furthermore, the reliability of the assay was determined by measurement of
35 theophylline samples of known concentration (three clinical significant concentrations; eleven repetitions; coefficient of variation ≤ 6.5%).

The results presented here demonstrate, for the first time, the ability to use chemically prepared macromolecules with preselected specificity, instead of the traditional biomolecules, as receptors in competitive binding assays. A great advantage of molecularly imprinted polymers is their simple and rapid (two to three days) preparation and their remarkable stability. They can be stored in the dry state, even at elevated temperatures, for several years without loss of recognition capabilities²⁷. In addition, the potential to reuse the polymers may prove valuable. Furthermore, by analogy to immunoaffinity chromatography, molecularly imprinted polymers could be useful for the separation and isolation of different compounds. Apart from the practical importance of the described preparations, structural studies on the interactions of drugs with their artificial receptors could yield valuable insight into the nature of molecular recognition phenomena²⁹⁻³¹.

Molecular imprints may be obtained against functionality complementary to the monomer^{14,27}. There is a potential for molecularly imprinted artificial antibodies in the analysis of many other drugs, metabolites, hormones, toxins, etc.

It is also noteworthy that molecularly imprinted polymers provide a potential alternative to the use of laboratory animals for the production of antibodies. Preliminary data from similar studies with an emphasis on recognition in aqueous systems using other compounds such as opiates and biologically active peptides, indicate that this technique promises to become widely useful.

The invention is described more in detail with reference to the following examples and the accompanying drawing.

Figure 1 shows a comparison of the competitive binding assays Enzyme-Multiplied Immunoassay Technique (EMIT)²⁸ and MIA for determination of serum concentration of theophylline in patient samples (n=32).

Example 1

Preparation of molecularly imprinted polymers

The preparation follows the reaction of Scheme 1.

- A) The functional monomer, methacrylic acid (MAA, 1), is
5 mixed with the print molecule, here theophylline (2), and
ethylene glycol dimethacrylate (EDMA), the crosslinking
monomer, in a suitable solvent. MAA is selected for its
ability to form hydrogen bonds with a variety of chemical
functionalities of the print molecule.
- 10 B) The polymerisation reaction is started with the addi-
tion of initiator (AIBN) and a rigid insoluble polymer is
formed. "Imprints", which are complementary in both shape
and chemical functionality to the print molecule, are now
present within the polymeric network.
- 15 C) The print molecule is removed by extraction.

The wavy lines in Scheme 1 represent an idealised
polymer structure but do not take into account the
accessibility of the substrate to the recognition site in
the macroporous polymer structure.

20 METHODSAnti-theophylline polymer

- To a glass bottle were added chloroform (250 ml),
theophylline (4.7 g), MAA (9 g), EDMA (93,5 g) and 2,2'-
-azobis(2-methylpropionitrile) (AIBN, initiator, 1.2 g).
- 25 The mixture was degassed under vacuum in a sonicating
waterbath and sparged with nitrogen for 5 min. The poly-
merisation reaction took place at 60°C for 24 h. The bulk
polymer was grounded in a mechanical mortar and wet sieved
(water) through a 25 µm sieve. The fines were removed by
30 repeated settling in acetonitrile. The print molecule
(theophylline) was extracted by extensive washing of the
particles with methanol-acetic acid (9/1, v/v). Finally,
the polymer particles were dried under vacuum and stored
in a desiccator.

Anti-diazepam polymer

Diazepam (1.27 g) was mixed with MAA (2.26 g), EDMA (26.1 g) and AIBN (0.5 g) in chloroform (39 ml). The polymerisation mixture was degassed under vacuum in a sonicating water-bath, sparged with nitrogen and then polymerised under UV (366 nm) at 4°C for 16 h. The resulting polymer was then treated as described above.

Example 2

A comparison of the competitive binding assays
Enzyme-Multiplied Immunoassay Technique (EMIT)²⁸ and MIA for determination of serum concentration of theophylline in patient samples (n=32) was performed. EMIT reagents were supplied by the manufacturer (SYVA, Palo Alto, USA). All enzyme immunoassays were performed at the department of Clinical Pharmacology, University Hospital, Lund, Sweden, according to the method of the manufacturer. The result is shown in Fig. 1:

Slope: 0.99, Intercept: 1.50 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$, correlation coefficient: 0.98.

20 METHODS

The assay conditions were established by applying similar protocols as is standard for the optimisation of immunoassays using antibodies³². 40 μl of each sample was mixed with 40 μl of HCl (0.2 M) and extracted with 1 ml of dichloromethaneisopropanol (4/1, v/v). The organic layer was evaporated at 40°C under a stream of nitrogen. The residue was redissolved in 100 μl of acetonitrile-acetic acid (99/1, v/v) containing [³H]-theophylline (5 ng, 18.6 Ci mmol⁻¹). Polymer imprinted against theophylline was then added (12.5 mg of polymer in 0.9 ml of the same solvent) and the mixture was incubated for 15 h at room temperature. The binding equilibrium was reached after 8 h, 80 and 90% of the binding occurred within 3 and 5 h. After centrifugation, the unbound [³H]-theophylline in 200 μl of the supernatant was measured by liquid scintillation counting. The calibration graph was linear over the range 14-224 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ (correlation coefficient = 0.999)

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and the detection limit of the assay was found to be $3.5 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$. The diazepam assay, performed in a similar manner using 5 mg of polymer in toluene-heptane (4:1; v/v), was linear from 0.44 to $28 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ (correlation coefficient = 0,991) with a detection limit of $0.2 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$.

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SCHEME 1

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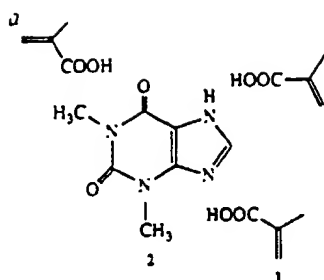
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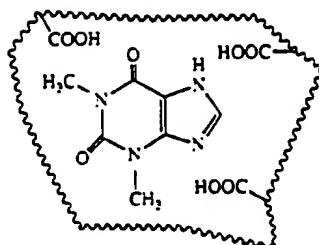
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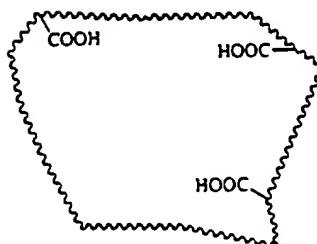
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b
polymerization



c
extraction



CLAIMS

1. Artificial antibodies, c h a r a c t e r i s e d
5 in that they consist of polymers that carry specific binding sites mimicking the properties of antibodies.

2. Artificial antibodies according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the polymers are prepared by polymerisation of polymerisable monomers carrying
10 functional groups and crosslinking monomers.

3. Artificial antibodies according to claim 1 or 2,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the polymers are prepared by non-covalent polymerisation.

4. Artificial antibodies according to claim 2 or 3,
15 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the polymerisable monomers carrying functional groups are chosen among negatively charged monomers such as methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, basic monomers such as vinylpyridine, vinylimidazole, hydrophobic monomers carrying alkyl
20 chains, monomers allowing π - π -interactions, van der Waals forces.

5. Artificial antibodies according to any one of the preceding claims, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the polymers are built up of methacrylic acid cross-
25 linked by ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

6. Artificial antibodies according to any one of the preceding claims, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the polymers are biocompatible.

7. Artificial antibodies according to claim 6,
30 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that they are of a size of not more than 5 μ m, preferably 10-100 nm.

8. Artificial antibodies according to any one of the preceding claims, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the binding sites are specific for a compound chosen from the
35 group consisting of drugs, metabolites, nucleotides, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, proteins, hormones, toxins, steroids, prostaglandins and leukotrienes.

9. Artificial antibodies according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the binding sites are specific for theophylline.

10. Artificial antibodies according to any one of
5 claims 1-8, characterised in that the binding sites are specific for diazepam.

11. A method for producing artificial antibodies,
characterised in that polymerisable monomers
carrying functional groups and crosslinking monomers are
10 polymerised in the presence of a print molecule and subsequently the print molecule is removed, leaving specific binding sites complementary to the print molecules.

12. A method according to claim 11, characterised
15 in that the polymerisation is a non-covalent polymerisation.

13. A method according to claim 11 or 12, characterised
in that the polymerisable monomers are chosen among negatively charged monomers such as methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, basic monomers such as vinylpyridine, vinylimidazole, hydrophobic monomers carrying
20 alkyl chains, monomers allowing π - π -interactions, van der Waals forces.

14. A method according to any one of claims 11-13,
characterised in that the polymerisable
25 monomers are methacrylic acid and the crosslinking monomers are ethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

15. A method according to any one of claims 11-14,
characterised in that the polymers are made
into a size of not more than 5 μ m, preferably 10-100 nm.

30 16. A method according to any one of claims 11-15,
characterised in that the print molecule is chosen from the group consisting of drugs, metabolites, nucleotides, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, proteins, hormones, toxins, steroids, prostaglandins and leukotrienes.

35 17. A method according to any one of claims 11-16,
characterised in that the print molecule is theophylline.

18. A method according to any one of claims 11-16, characterised in that the print molecule is diazepam.

19. A method for determination of an organic molecule
5 in a fluid sample, characterised in that a known amount of the organic molecule provided with a label is added to the sample, the sample is contacted with artificial antibodies as claimed in any one of claims 1-9 having specific binding sites for the organic molecule,
10 whereby the labelled and unlabelled organic molecules are competitively bound to the binding sites, and the labelled organic molecule is determined either unbound in the supernatant or bound by the polymer.

20. A method according to claim 19, characterised
15 terised in that the label is chosen from the group consisting of radioligands, enzymes, biotin, steroids, fluorochromes, electrochemiluminescent compounds, gold.

21. Use of the method according to claim 19 or 20 in heterogenous or homogenous immunoassays.

20 22. Use according to claim 21 in homogenous immunoassays, whereby the artificial antibodies are of a size of not more than 5 μm , preferably 10-100 nm.

23. A method for separation or isolation of an organic molecule from a fluid sample, characterised
25 rised in that the sample, labelled or not, is contacted with an excess of artificial antibodies as claimed in any one of claims 1-9 having specific sites for the organic molecule, whereby the organic molecule is bound to the binding sites, and optionally the organic
30 molecule is measured bound to the artificial antibodies or eluted from the antibodies.

24. A method of therapy or diagnosis, characterised
te rised in administration of artificial antibodies to a mammal body, which artificial antibodies consist of a
35 biocompatible polymer carrying specific binding sites mimicking the properties of antibodies towards an organic molecule.

20

25. A method according to claim 24, c h a r a c -
t e r i s e d in that an extracorporeal device containing
the artificial antibodies is coupled to the body via a
shunt in the bloodstream, and the bloodstream is passed
5 through the device.

26. A method according to claim 23 or 24, c h a -
r a c t e r i s e d in that the artificial antibodies are
of a size of not more than 5 μ m, preferably 10-100 nm.

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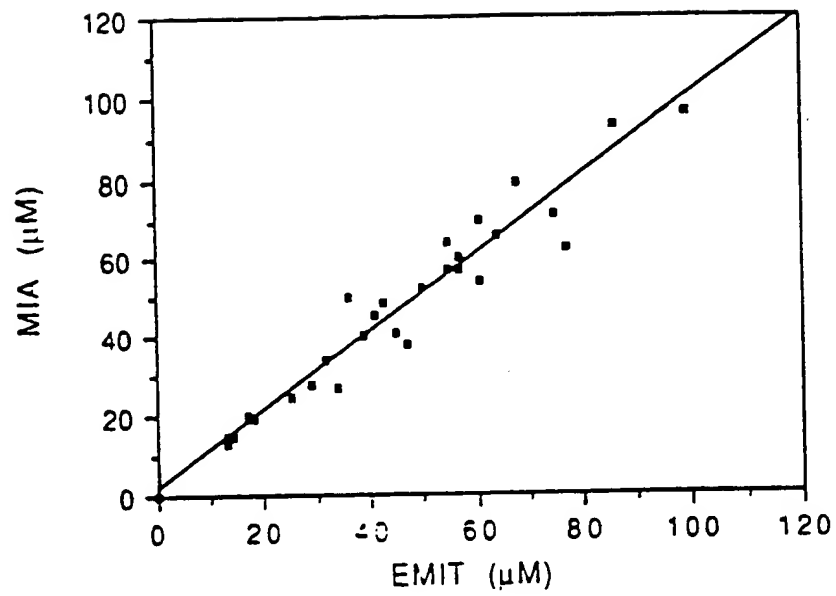
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FIG. 1



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00960

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC5: C07K 15/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC5: C07K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MEDLINE, BIOSIS, WPIL

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| X | US, A, 5110833 (K MOSBACH), 5 May 1992 (05.05.92), column 2, line 18 - line 40; column 3, line 13 - line 46, claims -- | 1-8,11-16, 19-23 |
| X | Dialog Information Services, File 34, Scisearch, Dialog accession no. 10998079, Kempe M et al: "Binding-studies on substrate-and enantio-selective molecularly imprinted polymers", Analytical letters, 1991, V24, N7, P1137-1145 -- | 1-8,11-16 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 February 1994

Date of mailing of the international search report

17 -02- 1994

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00960

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| X | National Library of Medicine database, File Medline, NLM accession no. 91177967, Andersson LI: "Enantiomeric resolution on molecu- larly imprinted polymers prepared with only non- covalent and non-ionic interactions", J Chromatogr 1990 Sep 21;516(2):313-22 -- | 1-8,11-16,23 |
| X | Dialog Information Services, File 154, Medline, Dialog accession no. 07658968, Medline accession no. 91177968, Andersson LI et al: "Enatiomeric resolution of amino acid derivatives on molecu- larly imprinted polymers as monitored by potentio- metric measurements", J Chromatorgr Sep 21 1990, 516 (2) p 323-31 -- | 1,8,11,23 |
| X | National Library of Medicine, File Medline, NLM accession no. 90267842, O'Shannessy DJ et al: "Molecular recognition in synthetic polymers. Enantiomeric resolution of amide derivatives of amino acids on molecularly imprinted polymers", J Mol Recognit 1989 Jul;2(1):1-5 -- | 1,8,11,23 |
| X | Dialog Information Services, File 351, WPIL, Dialog accession no. 004677980, WPI accession no. 86-181322/28, Mosbach K: "Phenylalanine ethyl ester selective polymer produced by molecular imprinting of rigid crosslinked polymer", SE 8404967 A 860405 8628 (Basic) -- | 1,8,11,23 |
| P,X | National Library of Medicine database, File Medline, NLM accession no. 93173199, Vlatakis G: "Drug assay using antibody mimics made by molecular imprinting", Nature 1993 Feb 18;361(6413):645-7 -- | 1-23 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00960

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| P,X | <p>Dialog Information Services, File 34, Scisearch, Dialog accession no. 12613654, Hedborg E et al: "Some studies of molecularly-imprinted polymer membranes in combination with field-effect devices", Sensors and Actuators A-physical, 1993, V37-8, jun- (jun-aug), p796-799</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-- -----</p> | 1,8,11 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00960

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 24-26
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
The wording "artificial antibodies" consist of polymers that carry specific binding sites" is too broad to permit an adequate search.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

28/01/94

PCT/SE 93/00960

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1992)